

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases – California Digital Library’s Government Information Initiative

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS: The California State Library (CSL) and the University of California’s California Digital Library (CDL) have signed an interagency agreement whereby CSL agrees to fund and CDL agrees to facilitate the California Counts database. This is the first phase of CDL’s Government Information Initiative, a proposal to develop a feasible way of acquiring and providing continuous and persistent access to government information available through California state agency Web sites, and to make this access available continuously to all Californians.

Database Contents

CDL staff is in the process of prioritizing the initial information to be included in California Counts. The information will come from various sources, both state and federal, including:

- ◆ *Summary Tape File 3 -- Census Bureau (CA only)*
- ◆ *USA Counties -- Census Bureau (CA only)*
- ◆ *County Business Patterns -- Dept. of Commerce (CA only)*
- ◆ *California Statistical Abstract*
- ◆ *Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 1970-2040 -- CA Dept. of Finance*
- ◆ *Legal Immigration to California by County, 1990-1995 -- CA Dept. of Finance*
- ◆ *Historical Census Populations of Places, Towns, and Cities in California, 1850-1990 -- CA Dept. of Finance*
- ◆ *Standardized Testing And Reporting Program (STAR) Reports – CA Dept. of Education*

Datasets, Data Structure, Metadata Structure

One of the goals of the California Counts project is to achieve interoperability with the data community. This would allow CDL to share datasets and thus enhance the sustainability of California Counts. One way CDL is doing this is by working with major players in the data community and adhering to standards. Currently much work is being done on developing metadata, or cataloging, standards for numeric data. The proposed standard is called the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI). The California Counts Team is actively involved

in the standard's development.

Government Information Advisory Group

CDL is in the process of forming a government information advisory group. Membership will include representatives from: CSL, a State agency, K-12, the private sector, a UC faculty member, a data archivist, a government information specialist, a geographic information system (GIS) specialist, and a public library. While this group will advise on aspects of the California Counts project, CDL is also looking to this group for overall advice on government information initiatives. Specifically this group will:

- ◆ Advise on strategic priorities for CDL government information initiatives, including those that support extension of CDL services beyond the University.
- ◆ Advise on potential grant proposals and on mechanisms to fulfill the objectives of existing grants.
- ◆ Advise on strategies for long-term funding of successful CDL government information initiatives.
- ◆ Advise on appropriate consultative and evaluation mechanisms for development of government information content and tools. These may include developing strategic partnerships with agencies. (One of the reasons that this group was pulled together is to advise CDL on its tacit agreement to explore preserving state web sites.)

Web Design

CDL is planning to contract out the web design of CA Counts. The intention is to create a "look" with California Counts to appeal to the general public as well as the research community. CSL staff and CDL staff have begun preliminary conversations on having both the Library of California and California Digital Library logos prominently displayed, along with text explaining that California Counts is a service provided by both entities.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE: Update on the California Counts database.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Tom Andersen